# Case 2:16-cv-06280-ER Document 1 Filed 12/02/16 Page 1 of 36 CIVIL COVER SHEET

JS 44 (Rev. 07/16) 🐔

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

				20					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS LAUREL EDELMAN	I			DEFENDANTS SOURCE HEALTH CONNIE SHAFFER	<b>ICARE AN</b>	ALYTICS, LLC an	d		
	of First Listed Plaintiff CA	Chester County, PA	<del></del>	County of Residence	(IN U.S.	sted Defendant <u>I</u> PLAINTIFF CASES OF TION CASES, USE TINVOLVED.			A
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, RILEY RIPER HOLL P.O. Box 1265 717 Constitution Drive Exton, PA 19341		r)		Attorneys (If Known)		INVOLVED.			
610-458-4400									
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in	One Box Only)		IZENSHIP OF P for Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIP	AL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in C and One Box		
U.S. Government Plaintiff		Not a Party)	Citizen		PTF DEF ⊠1 ⊠			PTF 4	DÉF □4
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT									
CONTRACT  110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise    REAL PROPERTY     210 Land Condemnation   220 Foreclosure     230 Rent Lease & Ejectment     240 Torts to Land     245 Tort Product Liability     290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	PERSONAL INJURY    365 Personal Injury -   Product Liability   367 Health Care/   Pharmaceutical   Personal Injury     Product Liability   Product Liability   Product Liability   Personal Injury     368 Asbestos Personal Injury     108 Asbestos Personal Injury     370 Other Personal     371 Truth in Lending     380 Other Personal     Property Damage     385 Property Damage     385 Property Damage     Product Liability     PRISONER PETITIONS     Habeas Corpus:     463 Alien Detainee     510 Motions to Vacate     Sentence     530 General     535 Death Penalty     Other:     540 Mandamus & Other     550 Civil Rights     555 Prison Condition     560 Civil Detainee -   Conditions of	□ 625 □ 690 □ 710 □ 720 □ 740 □ 751 □ 790 □ 791 □ 791 □ 7462 □ 462 □ 465	CABOR  LABOR Fair Labor Standards Act Labor/Management Relations Railway Labor Act Family and Medical Leave Act Other Labor Litigation Employee Retirement Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION Naturalization Applicatio Other Immigration Actions		USC 157  ERTY RIGHTS  pyrights tent	480 Consun   490 Cable/5   850 Security   Exchar   890 Other S   891 Agricul   893 Enviror   895 Freedon   Act   896 Arbitra   899 Admini   Act/Rev	laims Act m (31 USC m) eapportion st and Bankin erce ation eer Influer Organiza ner Credit iat TV ies/Comm age tatutory A tural Acts uran Act in of Infor tion strative Pi view or A Decision utionality	nment ng need and tions odities/ actions fatters mation rocedure oppeal of
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VIII. RELATED CASI	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCE	KET NUMBER			
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## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

### **CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM**

**CIVIL ACTION** 

Telephone	FAX Number	er	E-Mail Address		
610-458-4400	610-458-4441		George@rrhc.com;	DavidB@r	rhc.com
Date	Attorney-at-		Attorney for		<del></del>
12/02/2016	George B. Rar David L. Blac	ndolph, Esquire ck. Esquire	Plaintiff		
(f) Standard Management –	Cases that do not	fall into any one o	f the other tracks.	(X	)
(e) Special Management – C commonly referred to as the court. (See reverse si management cases.)	complex and that:	need special or int	ense management by	(	)
(d) Asbestos – Cases involvi exposure to asbestos.	ng claims for pers	onal injury or prop	perty damage from	, (	)
(c) Arbitration – Cases requi	red to be designate	ed for arbitration u	ınder Local Civil Rule	53.2. (	)
(b) Social Security – Cases r and Human Services den	equesting review or ying plaintiff Soci	of a decision of the al Security Benefi	e Secretary of Health ts.	(	)
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases b	prought under 28 U	J.S.C. § 2241 thro	ugh § 2255.	(	)
SELECT ONE OF THE FO	DLLOWING CAS	SE MANAGEME	NT TRACKS:		
In accordance with the Civil plaintiff shall complete a Cas filing the complaint and serve side of this form.) In the edesignation, that defendant sthe plaintiff and all other parto which that defendant belief	se Management Tre a copy on all defer vent that a defend hall, with its first a ties, a Case Manag	rack Designation F ndants. (See § 1:03 lant does not agre appearance, submi gement Track Desi	orm in all civil cases a 3 of the plan set forth or e with the plaintiff reg t to the clerk of court a	t the time on the revers garding said and serve on	of e d n
V. SOURCE HEALTHCARE ANALY and CONNIE SHAFFER	YTICS LLC	; ;	NO.		

(Civ. 660) 10/02

LAUREL EDELMAN

### 

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

Address of Plaintiff: 1591 White Chimney Rd., West Chester.	, PA 19380
Address of Defendant: 1001 E. Hector St., Conshohocken PA &	
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Horsham, PA, Conshot (Use Reverse Side For	nocken, PA
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation	and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a	
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ No[X]
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	
Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one y	
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior	Yes No
action in this court?	suit pending of within one year proviously terminated
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier	Yes No No
terminated action in this court?	Yes No
•	
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil right	
	Yes□ No□
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)	
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:
1.   Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. □ FELA	2.   Airplane Personal Injury
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation
4. □ Antitrust	4. □ Marine Personal Injury
5.  Patent	5.   Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
7. □ Civil Rights	7.   Products Liability
8.   Habeas Corpus	8. □ Products Liability — Asbestos
9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)
11.X All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify) A FMLA	
ARBITRATION CERT  (Check Appropriate Control of record do hereby cert  ARBITRATION CERT  (Check Appropriate Control of record do hereby cert  ARBITRATION CERT	Category) tify:
☐ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and	d belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;  X Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	1
His R W. like	00070
DATE: Attorney at Jaw	39278 Attorney I.D.#
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	•
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending o except as noted above.	r within one year previously terminated action in this court
DATE:	
A4	Attorney I D #

CIV. 609 (5/2012)

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

		for the
	EASTERN DIST	TRICT OF PENNS
LAUREL EDI Plaintiff( v. SOURCE HEALTHCARE A	ANALYTICS, LLC and	) ) ) ) (Civil Action No.
CONNIE SH.		) )
Dojemuni		Y A CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address		tics, LLC 220
A lawsuit has been fil	ed against you.	
are the United States or a Unit P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you mus	ted States agency, or an offi t serve on the plaintiff an an	COLAGRECO
	Exton, PA 19341	
If you fail to respond, You also must file your answe		e entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
		CLERK OF COURT
Date:		
		Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

	Tills sulfillions for (han	ne of individual and title, if any)		
was re	ceived by me on (date)	•		
	☐ I personally served	the summons on the individual	at (place)	
			on (date)	; or
	☐ I left the summons	at the individual's residence or	usual place of abode with (name)	
		, a perso	n of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy to	the individual's last known address; or	
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	designated by law to	accept service of process on beh		
	Management of the Control of the Con		on (date)	; or
	☐ I returned the sumr	nons unexecuted because		; 0
	☐ Other (specify):			
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00
	I declare under penalt	y of perjury that this information	ı is true.	
Date:		***	Server's signature	
			Printed name and title	
			Server's address	

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

	for the
EAS	TERN DISTRICT OF PENNS
LAUREL EDELMAN  Plaintiff(s)  v.  SOURCE HEALTHCARE ANALYTICS, LLC	) ) ) ) (Civil Action No. ) (Cand )
Defendant(s)	
	MMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address)  Connie Shaft 2390 E. Cam Phoenix, AZ	nelback Road, Suite 300
A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
are the United States or a United States agency P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the pl the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The ans whose name and address are:  George B. Rar RILEY RIPER	ammons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you y, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. aintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of swer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, adolph, Esquire HOLLIN & COLAGRECO on Drive, Suite 201
Exton, PA 193  If you fail to respond, judgment by de You also must file your answer or motion with	efault will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
	CLERK OF COURT
Detai	

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

This summons for (n	ame of individual and title, if any)		
s received by me on (date)	•		
☐ I personally serve	ed the summons on the individual at	(place)	
		on (date)	; or
☐ I left the summon	s at the individual's residence or us	ual place of abode with (name)	
	, a person	of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,
on (date)	, and mailed a copy to th	e individual's last known address; or	
☐ I served the sum	nons on (name of individual)		, who is
designated by law to	accept service of process on behalf		
		on (date)	; or
☐ I returned the sun	nmons unexecuted because		; or
☐ Other (specify):			
My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00
I declare under pena	lty of perjury that this information is	s true.	
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		Server's signature	
		Printed name and title	
		Server's address	

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

LAUREL EDELMAN

1591 White Chimney Road

**CIVIL ACTION** 

West Chester, PA 19380,

Plaintiff,

NO.

v.

SOURCE HEALTHCARE ANALYTICS, LLC

1001 East Hector Street, Suite 220 Conshohocken, PA 19428,

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

and

**CONNIE SHAFFER** 

2390 E. Camelback Road, Suite 300 Phoenix, AZ 85016,

Defendants.

#### **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Laurel Edelman ("Edelman"), by and through her undersigned attorneys, hereby files this Complaint against Defendants Source Healthcare Analytics, LLC d/b/a Symphony Health Solutions ("SHA") and Connie Shaffer ("Shaffer") as follows:

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. Plaintiff Edelman brings this action as a result of Defendants' unlawful interference with, and retaliation against, Edelman's exercise of rights under the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA"), 29 U.S.C. §2601, et seq. as well as for Defendants' refusal to tender to Edelman upon Edelman's termination from employment with Defendant SHA all "wages" due under Pennsylvania's Wage Payment and Collection Law, 43 P.S. 260.1 et seq.
  - 2. Plaintiff Edelman is an adult individual with an address as stated above.
- 3. Defendant SHA is a Delaware limited liability company maintaining its principal place of business at the address as stated above.

4. Defendant Shaffer is an adult individual and the Senior Director of SHA's Human Resources Department with an address as stated above.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 5. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 as Plaintiff Edelman's claims arise under a law of the United States. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff Edelman's state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367.
- 6. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) as a substantial portion of the events and/or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff Edelman's claims arose in this judicial district.

#### **FACTS**

7. From December 2014 through February 11, 2016, Plaintiff Edelman was employed full time with SHA as a "National Account Director". A copy of her December 8, 2014 offer of employment, as a National Account Director, and her December 9, 2014 acceptance, is attached hereto at Exhibit "A". She was thereafter provided an employee handbook which noted, inter alia, that FMLA "leave may be paid, unpaid, or a combination of PTO, STD [Short Term Disability Leave] and/or unpaid leave, depending on the circumstances..." A copy of the relevant page of the SHA Employee Handbook page is attached hereto at Exhibit "B". As such, she was employed by the Defendant, her employer, for at least 12 months, and had in excess of 1250 hours of service to her employer in the 12-month period preceding the termination of her employment (and this requirement is satisfied even before the language in the Employer's employee handbook<sup>1</sup> is considered, which arguably modified existing FMLA requirements).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The SHA Employee Handbook noted and assured employees that "upon return from FMLA leave... the FMLA requires that the employee return the employee to the same job, or one that is nearly identical (equivalent)". <u>See</u> p. 24 of Employee Handbook, at Exhibit "A".

- 8. Plaintiff Edelman worked for SHA out of her home office in West Chester, Pennsylvania and reported to executives at SHA's then-offices in Horsham, Pennsylvania and thereafter, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. SHA employed 50 or more employees within a 75 mile radius of the employee's worksite, or from which her work was assigned, or to which she reported.
- 9. During her employment as a National Account Director, Plaintiff Edelman was responsible for various accounts, including federal government contracts pursuant to which SHA was required to comply with various federal laws including, without limitation, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA").
- 10. In order to comply with the terms of those federal government contracts and HIPAA, SHA was required to, *inter alia*, provide certain information to the contracting federal agencies regarding the storage of the federal government's information and the employees who had access to that information.
- 11. In or around late July through about August 2015, Plaintiff Edelman advised and/or expressed her concern to SHA senior executives of various issues existing at SHA that she believed were not in compliance with SHA's obligations, both under SHA's federal government contracts and under federal law.
- 12. While Plaintiff Edelman was unsuccessfully attempting to advise SHA's senior management and legal advisors of her concerns that SHA was not in compliance with federal law, Plaintiff Edelman learned that she needed surgery in order to treat a serious medical condition of her own, which would require Plaintiff Edelman to miss several months of work at SHA.

- Director of Human Resources, Defendant Shaffer, and informed Defendant Shaffer that Plaintiff Edelman had scheduled a double knee replacement surgery for November 9, 2015 and requested information on SHA's short term disability leave policy and well as information on SHA's policy on FMLA leave. A representative copy of Plaintiff's emails reflecting her request is attached hereto at Exhibit "C". A representative sample of emails from Defendant Connie Shaffer, SHA's Senior Director of Human Resources, confirmed that leave time over 5 days was handled through short term disability and FMLA, again which confirmed the employee handbook's content that FMLA leave could include short term disability and even before Plaintiff had 12 months of employment. See e.g. Exhibit "C".
- 14. Re-enforcing the representation that Plaintiff was already eligible for FMLA leave and Plaintiff's belief that she was already entitled to FMLA leave because Defendants Shaffer and SHA requested that Plaintiff Edelman complete and return short term disability leave and FMLA forms, which FMLA forms Plaintiff Edelman and her physician completed and returned to SHA and/or Shaffer. On information and belief, SHA thereafter requested Plaintiff to avail herself of short-term disability in order to apparently later "sandbag" Plaintiff regarding Plaintiff's amount of FMLA leave. In fact, SHA approved and permitted the issuance of Short Term Disability benefits as part of her FMLA leave, which SHA's employee handbook noted could be comprised of, inter alia, Short Term Disability. A copy of certain correspondence reflecting the issuance of Short Term Disability Benefits to Plaintiffs as part of FMLA leave to Plaintiff is attached hereto at Exhibit "D".
- 15. Plaintiff Edelman underwent the scheduled knee replacement surgery on November 9, 2015 and SHA placed Plaintiff Edelman on FMLA leave as of November 9, 2015,

and SHA advised Plaintiff Edelman that it was placing her on FMLA leave for a period of 12 weeks.

- 16. Even if Plaintiff Edelman did not meet the eligibility requirements under the FMLA as of November 9, 2015, Defendants are equitably estopped from denying Plaintiff Edelman's eligibility for FMLA leave.
- 17. As of December 14, 20<u>15</u>, then, Plaintiff Edelman had been an employee of SHA for one year, had worked in excess of 1250 hours, and was entitled to the protection of the FMLA. See, e.g., Hearst v. Progressive Foam Technologies, Inc., 682 F Supp. 2d 955 (E.D. Ark 2010) (employee became an eligible employee under FMLA on his one year anniversary even though he was on leave).
- leave previously accorded to her), Plaintiff Edelman via email contacted her immediate supervisor, Shaffer, and SHA's human resources executive and informed SHA that Plaintiff Edelman could return to work as of that date (well before the expiration of the 12 weeks of FMLA leave that was previously made available to Plaintiff), provided that SHA could provide a reasonable accommodation to limit her long distance or plane travel until February 15, 2016. Plaintiff provided a doctor's note to support her early return from FMLA leave and back to work at SHA, as well as the limited restriction on her ability to do long distance or plane travel for several more weeks of time. Plaintiff was able to perform the essential functions of her job not only at the end of her FMLA leave, but even before the end of her then-scheduled FMLA leave. A copy of a doctor's note provided to SHA in about early January 2016 is attached hereto at Exhibit "E". In fact, and over this time period, SHA began contacting Plaintiff Edelman with various work-related requests even before she returned from her FMLA leave, which she

thereafter performed. Plaintiff requested in about early January 20<u>16</u> to return from FMLA leave.

- 19. After receiving no substantive reply from SHA to her request to return to work early from her FMLA leave, Plaintiff Edelman began mailing SHA by about January 21, 2016 to return to work. She got the runaround and non-responses. Therefore, on January 29, 2016, Plaintiff Edelman again contacted SHA via email on January 29, 2016 to inquire about returning to work again in a role beginning on February 1, 2016 with minimal restrictions on her ability to travel for two weeks. Copies of some of the email requests from Plaintiff Edelman to SHA requesting to return to work early, and SHA's failure to respond to her requests, are attached hereto at Exhibit "F".
- 20. On information and belief, Defendants failed and refused and/or delayed in responding to Plaintiff's requests to return from FMLA leave early, in order to later "run out the clock" on the 12 weeks of FMLA leave provided by law to Plaintiff, and then be able to later disingenuously claim that Plaintiff had "exceeded" her 12 weeks of FMLA leave.
- 21. Despite Plaintiff Edelman's repeated requests to return to work early from FMLA leave, Defendants intentionally ignored those requests and intentionally avoided responding to Plaintiff to allow Plaintiff to return to work. Instead, Defendants advised and directed Plaintiff to take more time off and return to work on February 11, 2016.
- 22. Plaintiff abided by Defendant's representations and instructions, and returned to work on the morning of February 11, 2016. Upon her return to work on the morning of February 11, 2016, Defendants <u>immediately</u> notified Plaintiff Edelman that her employment with SHA was terminated, effective that <u>same day</u> of February 11, 2016. The temporal proximity between Plaintiff's taking FMLA leave, her request to come back early from FMLA leave, and her

immediate termination upon her return is unusually suggestive of discriminatory and retaliatory animus by SHA. Such unusually suggestive temporal proximity is sufficient to establish a causal connection for purposes of a claim of interference, and/or of retaliatory discharge, under the FMLA. Defendants failed to restore the Plaintiff to the position that she had held when the leave began, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay and terms and conditions of employment despite the handbook, and despite the law.

- 23. SHA and Shaffer orally informed Plaintiff Edelman that there was no FMLA violation because Edelman had exceeded her 12 weeks of FMLA leave by staying out until February 10, 2016 (even though SHA had instructed her to take more time and FMLA leave off then she had requested) and, in any event, because her job as a "National Account Director" was "eliminated" by SHA because SHA was reducing its workforce and had eliminated her position because it was getting out of the government business she had been involved with. This representation and stated reason provided by SHA to Plaintiff was not correct or true, and was pretextual in nature. On information and belief, the pretextual rationales were conveyed orally to Plaintiff Edelman by SHA in order to avoid its leaving a paper trail that would document its misrepresentations to her.
- 24. However, at the <u>same</u> time SHA terminated Plaintiff Edelman's employment and, supposedly, her position, effective immediately, as a "National Account Director", SHA was actively and <u>simultaneously</u> recruiting prospective candidates to fill a "National Account Director" position, <u>i.e.</u> the <u>same</u> position from which SHA had terminated Plaintiff Edelman due to an alleged reduction in workforce, and the supposed "elimination" of her position at SHA and the concomitant work because SHA was getting out of the government contracting business. <u>See</u> SHA's job postings for that National Account Director for February 2016 attached hereto at

Exhibit "G". These misrepresentations are unusually suggestive of discriminatory and retaliatory animus toward Plaintiff Edelman regarding her rights under the FMLA.

- 25. Besides its interference and retaliation against Plaintiff Edelman in the exercise of her FMLA rights, on information and belief, SHA had, as one <u>unstated</u> reason for her termination, the termination of an employee (here, Edelman) who had raised concerns about SHA's ability to comply with the HIPAA requirements of SHA's contracts that she was obtaining for SHA. On further information and belief, SHA also thereafter terminated its manager of HIPAA compliance because that individual had <u>also</u> raised concerns to SHA that SHA was not compliant with its obligations, under HIPAA and its federal contracts, to ensure HIPAA confidentiality.
- 26. Moreover, SHA's representation to Edelman in mid-February 2016 that her job was "eliminated" because SHA was getting out of the government business was and is later contradicted by SHA's subsequent request to the federal government for a new DUNS contact number on the federal government's SAM system from that of Edelman to another Symphony employee, thus again demonstrating that Symphony was <u>not</u> getting out of the business of seeking federal government contracts. (The form DUNS number was 621288682, while the later, newer, DUNS number is 0324505489 both of which are publicly-available information).
- 27. In addition, Edelman had received numerous compliments from her superiors regarding her success in attaining certain business for SHA. A representative sample is attached hereto at Exhibit "H". Edelman had received <u>no</u> indications from her superiors that her job was going to be eliminated, or that her work performance was deficient or that SHA was getting out of the government business. Indeed, she was scheduled to receive certain bonuses and/or commissions from SHA for her success upon her return to work at SHA.

- 28. In addition, at the time of her termination from employment with SHA, SHA owed to Plaintiff Edelman various work-related business expense reimbursements, and part of a bonus, which Defendants have failed and refused to pay to Plaintiff Edelman unless and until Plaintiff Edelman executes a "Separation and Release Agreement" that Defendants provided to Plaintiff Edelman whereby Defendants have requested Plaintiff Edelman to waive all of her employment-related claims including claims regarding which SHA clearly and already owed Plaintiff Edelman monies for her business expense reimbursements. SHA's requested "Separation and Release Agreement" also required Plaintiff to waive her prospective rights under the FMLA, in violation of U.S. Department of Labor regulations. SHA's (and Shaffer's) stated "rationale" for its refusal to reimburse and/or pay Edelman for those business expenses that Plaintiff had incurred was:
  - a. that Edelman had not properly inputted her business expenses into its computerized system even though SHA had implemented a new computerized reporting system while Edelman had been out on leave but SHA had failed to instruct Edelman in the use of that new system while she had been out on leave.
  - b. that Edelman had not timely inputted certain of her business expenses, even though SHA had often permitted <u>other</u> employees to enter their business expenses late, and pay them.
- 29. The Pennsylvania Wage Payment and Collection Act also makes it unlawful for an Employer (here, SHA) and any officer (i.e., Defendant Shaffer) who plays an active role in failing and refusing to pay an ex-employee any accrued and owing wages or benefits, from refusing to pay those wages, or to pre-conditioning the payment with a release for those very same wages or benefits or expense reimbursements already owed to the ex-employee.
- 30. Defendants' actions, as set forth herein, also constitute both an interference with and an unlawful retaliation under the FMLA.

### **COUNT I-VIOLATION OF THE FMLA** (Interference, Against Both Defendants)

- 31. All paragraphs above are hereby incorporated by reference.
- 32. Plaintiff Edelman was an eligible employee under the definitional terms of the Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 U.S.C. §2611(2)(a)(i)(ii), et seq. and the case law regarding the FMLA.
- 33. Alternatively, Defendants are equitably estopped based on their conduct as set forth herein from denying Plaintiff Edelman's eligibility for leave under the FMLA.
- 34. Plaintiff Edelman requested and obtained leave from Defendant SHA, her employer, with whom she had been employed for at least twelve (12) months pursuant to the requirements of 29 U.S.C.A. §2611(a)(i) and pursuant to SHA's own employee handbook and the representations of its Senior Human Resources Representative, Defendant Shaffer. Alternatively, Plaintiff Edelman became an eligible employee in December 2015 and was afforded FMLA leave from December 2015 until February 10, 2016. *See e.g. Hearst v. Progressive Foam Techs., Inc.*, 682 F. Supp. 2d 955, 960 (E.D. Ark. 2010), affd, 641 F.3d 276 (8th Cir. 2011)
- 35. Plaintiff Edelman had at least 1,250 hours of service with Defendants before she used leave but was terminated.
- 36. Defendant SHA is engaged in an industry affecting commerce and employs fifty (50) or more employees for each working day during each of the twenty (20) or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding calendar year, pursuant to 29 U.S.C.A. §2611(4)(A)(i).
- 37. Plaintiff was entitled to receive FMLA leave pursuant to 29 U.S.C.A. §2612(a)(1) for a total of up to twelve (12) work weeks of leave because she suffered from qualifying physical health problems.

- Defendants unlawfully interfered with Plaintiff Edelman's rights under the FMLA 38. by, inter alia, falsely advising her that FMLA leave could consist of a "combination of PTO, STD and/or unpaid leave", by failing to respond to Plaintiff Edelman's inquiries, by deliberately telling her to stay out on leave past the 12 weeks of FMLA leave, by asserting various pretexts and misrepresentations to her, and by ultimately discouraging and then refusing to reinstate Plaintiff Edelman's employment earlier, i.e. the date that Plaintiff Edelman requested to return to work. On information and belief, the Defendants advised and directed Plaintiff to continue her FMLA leave past the 12-weeks normally provided by law so that Defendants could thereafter contend that Plaintiff supposedly "lost" her protection under the FMLA. Plaintiff was denied a substantive benefit under the FMLA, such as prompt restoration of her work after leave. Put differently, an employer may not interfere with an employee's right to FMLA leave by forcing that employee to take leave that he or she did not request or need. An involuntary leave claim requires an employee to have been forced to take FMLA leave even though the employee does not have a "serious health condition" that precludes her from working. Here, Edelman was an eligible employee by no later than December 2015, her doctor indicated by early January 2016 that she was able to return to work at SHA with only limited restrictions, yet SHA repeatedly ignored her requests to return to work in January, and requested that she extend her leave to February 11, 2016, and then terminated her on her first day back to work by then contending that she had exceeded 12 weeks of leave, and falsely representing that her job had been eliminated because she was getting out of the government contractor business.
- 39. Defendant Shaffer is personally liable because Defendant Shaffer is a high-level manager who exerted control over Plaintiff's specific leave, over Defendant SHA's family medical leave policies, and personally terminated Plaintiff Edelman in violation of the FMLA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Laurel Edelman demands judgment in her favor and against Defendants as follows:

- A. Reinstatement to her prior position;
- B. compensatory damages, lost wages and benefits, and other actual monetary losses, in an amount exceeding \$75,000.00;
- C. liquidated damages in an amount equal to any monetary recovery, as permitted by applicable law, to punish Defendants for their willful, deliberate, malicious and outrageous conduct and to deter Defendants and other employers from engaging in such misconduct in the future;
- D. costs and expenses of this action and reasonable legal fees as provided by applicable federal and state law; and
  - E. such other relief as this Court deems just and appropriate.

# COUNT II- VIOLATION OF THE FMLA (Retaliation, Against All Defendants)

- 40. All paragraphs above are hereby incorporated by reference.
- 41. As set forth above, Plaintiff Edelman exercised her rights under the FMLA.
- 42. Defendants unlawfully retaliated against Plaintiff Edelman for exercising her rights under the FMLA by, *inter alia*, immediately terminating Plaintiff Edelman's employment on February 11, 2016, the very first day she was told by Defendants to return to work at SHA. Defendants compounded their unlawful retaliation against Plaintiff by terminating her on the pretext that she had exceeded 12 weeks of FMLA leave, and by further representing that her job as "National Account Director" was eliminated even as SHA was simultaneously advertising for

another candidate to perform the very same job duties as a "National Account Director" as that of Plaintiff. Her termination was a materially adverse employment action.

43. Defendant Shaffer is personally liable because Defendant Shaffer is a high-level manager who exerted control over Plaintiff's specific leave, over Defendant SHA's medical and FMLA leave policies, and personally terminated Plaintiff Edelman in violation of the FMLA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Laurel Edelman demands judgment in her favor and against Defendants as follows:

- A. Reinstatement to her prior position;
- B. compensatory damages, lost wages and benefits, and other actual monetary losses, in an amount exceeding \$75,000.00;
- C. liquidated damages in an amount equal to any monetary recovery, as permitted by applicable law, to punish Defendants for their willful, deliberate, malicious and outrageous conduct and to deter Defendants and other employers from engaging in such misconduct in the future;
- D. costs and expenses of this action and reasonable legal fees as provided by applicable federal and state law; and
  - E. such other relief as this Court deems just and appropriate.

# COUNT III- BREACH OF CONTRACT/VIOLATION OF W.P.C.L. (Against All Defendants)

- 44. All paragraphs above are hereby incorporated by reference.
- 45. At all times material hereto, SHA was Plaintiff Edelman's "employer" within the meaning of the Pennsylvania Wage Payment and Collection Law, 43 P.S. §260.1 *et seq.* (the "WPCL").

- 46. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff Edelman was an "employee" of Defendant SHA under the WPCL.
- 47. The expense reimbursements and bonus monies described herein which are due and owing to Plaintiff Edelman are "wages" within the meaning of the WPCL.
- 48. Defendant Shaffer is also an "employer" of Plaintiff Edelman under the WPCL as she was a high ranking officer who actively participated in the decision-making of Defendant SHA, including the decision to refuse the payment of wages and expense reimbursements due and owing to Plaintiff Edelman as described herein.
- 49. To date, Defendant SHA, and also by and through Defendant Shaffer, have failed and refused to pay to Plaintiff Edelman the wages and expense reimbursements and bonus monies to which Plaintiff Edelman was entitled pursuant to her employment with Defendant SHA.
- 50. Defendants' refusal to pay Plaintiff Edelman is without justification and in bad faith, thereby entitling Plaintiff Edelman to liquidated damages in the amount of twenty five (25%) percent of the total due and owing to Plaintiff Edelman.
- 51. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violation of the WPCL, Plaintiff Edelman is entitled to all unpaid wages and benefits, liquidated damages, interest, and costs of prosecuting this action, including her attorneys' fees.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Laurel Edelman demands judgment in her favor and against Defendants for all unpaid wages and expense reimbursements owed, to be calculated following the conclusion of discovery, plus liquidated damages, interest, costs, attorneys' fees, and such further relief as this Court deems just and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

RILEY RIPER HOLLIN & COLAGRECO

Bv:

GEORGE B. RANDOLPH, ESQUIRE

DAVID L. BLACK, ESQUIRE

Pa. I.D. Nos. 39278, 93173

717 Constitution Drive, Suite 201

Exton, PA 19341

(610) 458-4400 (t)

(610) 458-4441 (f)

george@rrhc.com

davidb@rrhc.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Dated: December 2, 2016

Case 2:16-cv-06280-ER Document 1 Filed 12/02/16 Page 23 of 36



December 8, 2014

Laurel Edelman 1591 White Chimney Rd West Chester, PA 19380

Dear Laurel,

Your contributions over the past nine months as a consultant have contributed to our development of the government channel. We would like to offer you the opportunity to join us as a full time employee effective December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 as a National Account Director.

In the National Account Director position, you will be paid a base salary of \$150,000 per year ("Base Compensation"). In this role you will report to Robert Boyce, Vice President, Strategic Partnerships and will work out of Symphony's Horsham office. Base Compensation will paid in accordance with our standard payroll practices, which currently provide for semi-monthly payments on the 15th and last day of each month. Deductions will be made from your Base Compensation in accordance with laws and your personal benefit choices. For payroll purposes you will be paid by Source Healthcare Analytics, which is part of Symphony Health Solutions.

In addition, you will participate in the 2015 National Account Director commission plan. Specific goals, objectives and quotas will be finalized by management and provided shortly after your start date. These will be based upon your assigned territory and potentially pro-rated based upon your start date with the company.

As a part of the Symphony Health Solutions Team you will have several benefit options from which to choose. Medical, dental, life, and vision insurance, along with other benefit plan options are listed on the attached "Employee Benefits Summary". All benefits are subject to the terms and conditions of Individual plans (such as possible waiting periods). Some of these benefits are paid by Symphony Health Solutions and some require employee contributions.

Notwithstanding this offer letter and any other employment-related agreements, your employment with Symphony Health Solutions is on an "at-will" basis. Meaning that either you, or Symphony Health Solutions, can terminate this employment relationship at any time and for any reason or no reason at all. By your acknowledgement of this employment offer, you agree that your employment relationship is with Source Healthcare Analytics and that at some point in the future your payroll may be transferred to Symphony Health Solutions Corporation ("Parent Company").

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out.



Sincerely,
Jeff Catte
Jeff Cottle Sr VP and Chief People Officer Symphony Health Solutions
Cc: J. Craig Davis, Recruiting Manager
Connect with Symphonyl Collaborate with Customersl Andrews Yourself!
Welcome to Symphony Health! We are thrilled you have chosen to be part of our team!
This offer is contingent upon your execution of this letter and the attached Symphony Employe non-disclosure Agreement (NDA) on or before <u>12/10/2014</u> .
Please sign this letter and return via scan/e-mail or fax: 602-381-9121.
I,acknowledge and agree with this employment offer, terms and conditions.
Signature: Date:

From: Boyce, Robert

Sent: Friday, December 12, 2014 4:38 PM

To: Edelman, Laurel

Subject: FW: Offer and NDA Acceptance

Fyì

Also, I am not golog to make it tonight.

From: Davis, Craig

Sent: Friday, December 12, 2014 4:37 PM

To: Boyce, Robert, Cottle, Jeff

Subject: RE: Offer and NDA Acceptance

Thanks again Rob. We'll get her set up with payroll and reach out for onboarding. Have a good weekends

From: Boyce, Robert

Sent: Friday, December 12, 2014 2:35 PM

To: Davis, Craig; Cottle, Jeff

Subject: FW: Offer and NDA Acceptance

Importance: High

From: Edelman, Laurel

Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2014 5:24 PM

To: Boyce, Robert

Subject: Offer and NDA Acceptance

Importance: High

Dear Rob,

I am writing to confirm my acceptance of your offer of December 9, 2014, the National Account Director position. I am excited to be joining Symphony Health Solutions as a full time employee, and I am confident that I will continue to make a significant contribution to the growth of our organization.

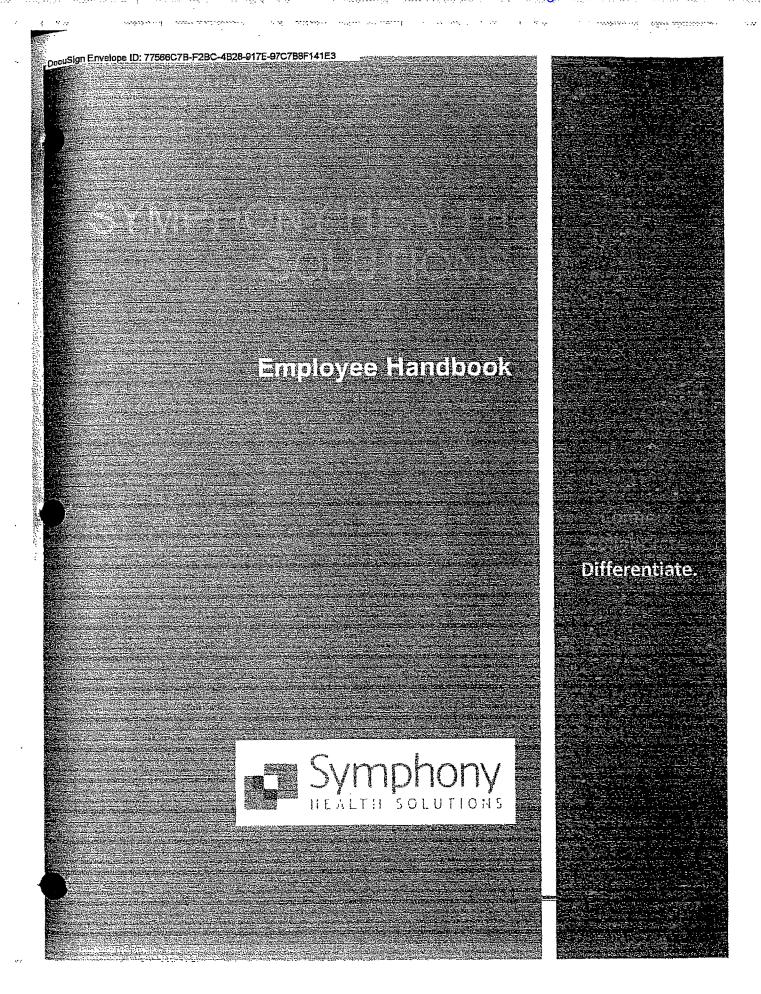
As we discussed, the start date for the position will begin on December 15, 2014 and I will invoice my final invoice for the consulting position on December 14, 2014.

Rob, I appreciate your confidence in me, and am excited to continue working with you, the Strategic Partnerships Team and the many folks at Symphony Health Solutions:

Sincerely,

Laurel

Laurel Edelman Consultant, Government Services, Strategic Partnerships 484-653-8707 Laurel Edelman@symphonyhealth.com



DocuSign Envelope ID: 77566C7B-F2BC-4B28-917E-97C7B8F141E3

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

#### **FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT**

Symphony Health Solutions grants up to 12 weeks of family and medical leave during any 12-month period to eligible employees, in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) and up to 26 weeks of leave in any 12-month period in compliance with the expansion of FMLA under The Support for Injured Service members Act of 2007. The leave may be paid, unpaid or a combination of PTO, STD and/or unpaid leave, depending on the circumstances of the leave and as specified in this policy.

Upon return from FMLA leave (whether after a block of leave or an instance of intermittent leave), the FMLA requires that the employer return the employee to the same job, or one that is nearly identical (equivalent).

#### PERSONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

All full-time employees working 30 hours or more a week may request unpaid personal leave of absence up to a maximum of 30 days to take care of personal issues not covered under disability or FMLA. In such instances, an employee must seek approval of their manager and HR and must give his/her supervisor as much notice as possible to make arrangements to reassign the workload. A personal leave of absence is unpaid, however, an employee may use any accrued unused PTO available. An employee's position is not guaranteed upon return from a Personal Leave of Absence.

#### **MILITARY LEAVE**

Unpaid military leave of absence will be granted to employees, except those occupying temporary positions, to attend scheduled drills or training or if called to active duty with the U.S. armed services, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws.



Laurel Edelman <laurel.edelman@gmail.com>

#### FW: Edelman surgery

Laurel <a href="mailto:Laurel.edelman@gmail.com">Laurel.edelman@gmail.com</a>

Mon, Feb 15, 2016 at 1:56 PM

From: Edelman, Laurel

Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 10:11 AM

To: Green, Stuart

Subject: Edelman surgery

Hi Stu,

Thank you for the call this morning. As I mentioned, it has been determined that it is time for me to get my knees replaced. The surgery, a bilateral knee replacement (both knees) has been scheduled for November 9, 2015. By way of this note, I am authorizing and would appreciate you discussing work options with Jeff Cottle.

Initially, I thought the recovery would be about 2 weeks however upon further discussions that time for many has been as much as 4 weeks.

Things to consider – thanksgiving week is often a quiet week, the POA meeting in December.

I'll book time for Tuesday of next week to come in for further discussion. Thank you Stu for your assistance.

Best,

Laurel

#### Laurel Edelman

Sr. National Account Director, Government Services

484-653-8707

Laurel.Edelman@symphonyhealth.com

www.symphonyhealth.com

From: Edelman, Laurel

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 7:47 PM

To: Shaffer, Connie

Subject: RE: Information on FMLA STD

Unfortunately, the money part is playing a bigger part in this than I wish, as my husband was off for the first 6 weeks of 2015 due to his quintuple bypass and all the associated costs. Healthy—Yes! Inexpensive—Definitely Not! Connie, just talked with Met Life and they will be sending me the forms necessary to be completed AFTER the hospitalization. Very helpful and very clear. Thank you again.

Best,

Laurel

Laurel Edelman 484-653-8707 Laurel.Edelman@symphonyhealth.com

From: Shaffer, Connie

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 7:29 PM

To: Edelman, Laurel

Subject: RE: Information on FMLA/STD

Thanks. Take care of yourself. If I can help with anything, please let me know.

Carrie Single SPHR
Sr Director Human Resources
2390 E Camelback Rd., Ste 300, Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-381-9103 (office)
480-205-5001 (mobile)

480-205-5001 (motine 602-381-9121 (Fax)

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Symphony HEALTH SOLUTIONS

From: Edelman, Laurel

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2615 4:28 PM

To: Shaffer, Connie

Subject: RE: Information on FMLA/\$TD

Hi Connie. That will be the first day no working. No pre-surgery relief required @

Best,

stage assessed in the second second second

#### Laurel

Laurel Edelman 484-653-8707 Laurel Edelman@symphonyhealth.com

From: Shaffer, Connie

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 3:32 PM

To: Edelman, Laurel

Subject: RE: Information on FMLA/STD

#### Laurel

You mentioned your surgery is on Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, will that be the first day no working, or will you need time prior to surgery?

Connie Shapter SPHR

Sr Director Human Resources
2390 E Cameiback Rd., Ste 300, Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-381-9103 (office)
480-205-5001 (mobile)
602-381-9121 (Fax)
www.symphonyhealth.com
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From: Shaffer, Connie

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 7:38 AM

To: Edelman, Laurel

Subject: RE: Information/on FMLA/STD

#### Laurel

I double checked your benefit elections and I think you might be referring to critical illness, which you elected. Here is information to assist you with finding out more:

However, if you are paid under short term disability, they may pay you the difference between what STD pays and your normal salary. But, I would suggest you speak with them directly for the correct information.

ACCIDENT/CRITICAL ILLNESS/HOSPITAL INDEMNITY — MetLife — Group Number: 05357228

With MetLife Accident & Critical Illness, if you have any questions in regards to the coverage or you need to file a claim, you can call the MetLife Customer Service Line: 1-800-438-6388

Monday — Friday, 8:00am — 11:00pm EST

NAME OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

Follow the automated process to confirm your benefit plan. Once you are connected to a live representative, they will be able to send a claim form directly to your home. The form will have instructions of what is needed and where to send the completed form for processing.

SPHR
Sr Director Human Resources
2390 E Camelback Rd., Ste 300, Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-381-9103 (office)
480-205-5001 (mobile)
602-381-9121 (Fax)
www.symphonyhealth.com
CONNECT. COLLABORATE. DIFFERENTIATE.



From: Shaffer, Connie

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 7:26 AM

To: Edelman, Laurel

Subject: RE: Information on FMLA/S/D

We do not have Afflack as an employee benefit, so you have to check with them as to how that pays you.

SPHR
Sr Director Human Resources
2390 E Camelback Rd., Ste 300, Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-381-9103 (office)
480-205-5001 (mobile)
602-381-9121 (Fax)
www.symphonyhealth.com
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From: Edelman, Laurel

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 7:22 AM

To: Shaffer, Connie

Subject: Re: Information on FMLA/STD

Hi Connie. I hope you don't mind my questions as this is all new to me. I signed onto Afflack as well how will that work?

Best, Laurel

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 13, 2015, at 12:33 PM, Shaffer, Connie < Connie. Shaffer@symphonyhealth.com > wrote:

You wouldn't want to do that, since it could impact your claim.

SPHR
Sr Director Human Resources
2390 E Camelback Rd.; Ste 300, Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-381-9103 (office)
480-205-5001 (mobile)
602-381-9121 (Fax)
www.symphonyhealth.com
CONNECT. COLLABORATE, DIFFERENTIATE.



From: Edelman, Laurel

Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:30 AM

To: Shaffer, Connie

Subject: RE: Information on FMLA/STD

Thanks Connie. A quick question – if I have more PTO time available could I take 2 weeks of PTO before STD starts? Thank you.

Best.

Laurei

Laurel Edelman 484-653-8707 Laurel Edelman @symphonyhealth.com

From: Shaffer, Connie

Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 10:43 AM

To: Edelman, Laurel

Cc: Green, Stuart; Cottle, Jeff
Subject: Information on FMLA/\$TD

Laurel,

I am sorry to hear about your upcoming surgery. Leave time over 5 days is handled through short term disability and FMLA. I have attached information regarding Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and Short